

*Reasons for allowance*

1. This communication is in response to applicant's 07/16/2008 amendment in the application of Roberson et al. for a "Method and apparatus for transporting network management information in a telecommunications network" filed 11/30/2000. This application claims priority from provisional application 60/199,591 filed 04/25/2000. This application is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. 1.114 filed on November 11, 2007. The proposed amendments to the claims have been entered and made of record. Claims 56, 67, 68, 72 have been amended. The claims have been amended to better point out and more distinctly claim subject matter comprising the invention.

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

I Claims 68 and 72: lines 1, replace "A computer program product comprising" with --A program on a computer readable medium product comprising--

II Claim 72: line 1, replace "claim 69" with --claim 68--

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4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Claims 56, 60-62, 66-68, 72 are allowable as evident by Applicant's amendment (Claims are renumbered as 1-8 respectively).

6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The closest prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest a method comprising: receiving a plurality of time slots, wherein the time slots comprise a first frame and a second frame, the second frame is received subsequently to the first frame, and the first frame and second frame are time-division multiplexed frames; relocating existing network management information of the second frame from a set of byte locations of the second frame to another set of byte locations of the second frame; relocating network management information from a first set of byte locations of the first frame to the set of byte locations of second frame; cross-connecting the time slots; selecting at least one of the time slots; receiving a plurality of incoming time slots; sequentially writing the incoming time slots into a plurality of input buffers; randomly reading a plurality of outgoing time slots from the input buffers; and outputting the outgoing time slots, as specifically recited in the claims.

7. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

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fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Man U. Phan whose telephone number is (571) 272-3149. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 6:00 am to 3:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jay Patel, can be reached on (571) 272-2988. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

9. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have any questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at toll free 1-866-217-9197.

MPhan

10/23/2008

/Man Phan/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2419

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